

From: John Cole
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:45am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I wish to object to the proposed settlement with Microsoft and the DOJ. I find it hard to understand why the DOJ has determined that Microsoft is a company guilty of maintaining it's monopoly illegally, yet offers a settlement with such restrictive language that Microsoft will be able to use the proposed settlement to further it's monopoly in the future.

By allowing Microsoft to narrowly define what is windows in the settlement, and use the same Win32 API and marketing in every product they make, let's Microsoft dead end this settlements goals. Microsoft will simply launch a new Windows products outside of the definition and sidestep all remedies in this settlement.

Personally, I have found that Microsoft's words and actions have proven that this is an untrustworthy company, and any remedies that rely on Microsoft's willingness to live up to the spirit of the settlement will fail. I tend to favor the original ruling of breaking up Microsoft, however, I do not believe that two companies would actually help. I would like to see Microsoft broken into four or five companies (Microsoft Windows Inc., Microsoft Office Inc., Microsoft Development Products Inc., Microsoft Home & Games Inc., Microsoft Internet Applications Inc.) so that it would be impossible for Microsoft to resort to proven illegal tactics against competitors. I would expect all of the Microsoftlets would be very powerful competitors in their respective marketplaces, increase shareholder value, increase innovation over what I believe is the lowered expectations from Microsoft, and finally provide stable and secure software from the companies.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you consider my opinions.
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